

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Tyler Steel Co

Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center

#### Tyler Steel Delivers On Schedule Thanks To Implementation Of Lean Techniques

##### Client Profile:

Tyler Steel fabricates steel for structural needs and also maintains an extensive inventory of steel products in its Steel Service Center. The company, which employs less than 50 people, is located in Tyler, Texas and has provided services in the Tyler and East Texas areas since 1975.

##### Situation:

After receiving a contract to provide the structural steel for a large hospital addition, Tyler Steel determined that it needed to increase throughput in its steel fabrication process to meet a demanding delivery schedule. The company had used the services of the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to polish its business and manufacturing processes in the past, and once again called on TMAC for process improvement insights.

##### Solution:

TMAC's provided Tyler Steel with hands-on assistance aimed at improving its fabrication processes using lean manufacturing techniques. TMAC focused on the workflow of each process step and on moving the product in a more timely fashion. By coaching Tyler Steel's employees through each step of the manufacturing cycle, TMAC was able to achieve its goal.

First, TMAC suggested that existing material handlers be reassigned on the shop floor to aid material set-up, thus freeing the fitter operator to spend more time "fitting up" beams. TMAC also developed a tool to measure key daily outputs. Throughout the project, TMAC and the Tyler Steel management team collected data to track the results of changes and monitor daily expectations. By making process changes and measuring daily output, Tyler Steel was able to increase its throughput in support of the major multi-million dollar hospital addition.

##### Results:

Increased throughput at the constraint by 124 percent.  
Reduced overtime by 46 percent.

##### Testimonial:

"The Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center helped us raise the level of

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productivity of our workforce to meet critical customer deliveries. They also developed a method by which we could measure results."

Amos Hall, Chief Operating Officer